

A 4
GENUINE ACCOUNT
OF THE
BEHAVIOUR
AND
DYING - WORDS
OF
Daniel Perreau

AND
Robert Perreau,

Who were EXECUTED at TYBURN, on
Wednesday, the 17th of JANUARY, 1776,
FOR FORGERY.

BY THE REV. JOHN VILLETTE,
ORDINARY OF NEWGATE,

L O N D O N,

Printed for the AUTHOR. and Sold at his House, No. 1,
NEWGATE STREET,

TO THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE
LAND OFFICE
IN THE CITY OF LONDON

BEING A VINDICATION

OF THE
RIGHTS OF THE
COMMONS OF THE
CITY OF LONDON

Daniel Portman

Robert Portman

OF THE CITY OF LONDON

FOR THE CITY OF LONDON

BY THE REV. JOHN WILLIAMS

OF THE CITY OF LONDON

AND OF THE CITY OF LONDON

AND OF THE CITY OF LONDON

T O T H E

Gentlemen EDITORS or MANAGERS,

Of the SEVERAL

Morning and Evening Papers.

THE AUTHOR begs Leave to
to pay his Compliments, and
hopes that they will not copy any
Part of the following Sheets, at least
for a few Days, until he may have an
Opportunity of reimbursing himself
the Expence he must necessarily incur
in the Publication. They all know
Printing and Publishing is attended
with great Expence and Trouble,
which can no otherwise be refunded
but by a moderate Sale: They like-
wise know that moderate Sale can-
not take Place, if they, one and
all, circulate the Whole or a princi-
pal Part, in their respective Papers,
as soon as it makes its Appearance,
perhaps before the candid Publick

is

is well apprized of the original Publication. If, notwithstanding this respectful Remonstrance, the Gentlemen should so far disregard the noble Rule of Justice, or doing as they would be done by, and strive to out-run one another in this piratical Pursuit, the Consequence to the Author will be some small immediate Loss; but to the Publick, it will be a more solid and permanent Disadvantage, by discouraging, and indeed disabling him, on all future interesting Occasions, from gratifying the Curiosity, satisfying the Doubts and removing the Anxiety and Inquietude of many worthy People, mediately or immediately, interested in the Fate or Character of unhappy Convicts.

(b)

A N
A C C O U N T
Of the BEHAVIOUR of
D A N I E L P E R R E A U
A N D
R O B E R T P E R R E A U,
F O R F O R G E R Y.



S the Fate of the Unfortunate
Twin Brothers, has much en-
grossed the Attention of the
Publick, and various erroneous
Accounts have appeared concerning them.
It is presumed, an authentick Narrative of
their Behaviour, during their Confinement
in *Newgate*, till the awful Period of their Exit,
may not be unacceptable to many Readers.
The unhappy *Daniel* and *Robert Perreau*, about
the Age of Forty-one or two, were born
in the Island of *St. Kitts*, in the *West Indies*,
but quitted their Place of Nativity while
young

young; *Robert* saying that he left that Part of the World, when he was but Nine Years old, and that he served his Time with an Apothecary in *London*, and afterwards succeeded him in his Business, in both which Stations he was very successful, and acquired great Reputation, indeed so great, that he cleared by his Profession not less than a Thousand Pounds *per Annum*. *Daniel* was rather reserved in his Conversation, concerning the former Part of his Life, only intimating that he had been in the Mercantile Way, though it is said he was originally brought up a Weaver.

Immediately after *Robert's* Conviction, I visited him in his Cell, when he told me he was innocent of the Crime he was charged with, and hoped I would afford him all the Consolation I could. *Daniel* likewise always protested his Innocence, and concurred with his Brother in saying, they were duped by Mrs. *Rudd*, who he observed, was a very wicked Woman, with an infinite Share of Understanding; and that she was playing those Tricks, which
in

involved him in his Misfortunes at the Time he was in the South of *France* for the Recovery of his Health. *Robert*, some Time before the Trial of *Mrs. Rudd*, entertained very sanguine Hopes of being pardoned, and indeed, so great was his Expectation of it, that he said, the King was convinced of his Innocence, adding withal, that great Light would be thrown out in the Course of *Mrs. Rudd's* Trial, which would tend to develop the complicated Wickedness of the Forgeries; consequently, by fixing the Guilt upon the proper Object, would render his Innocence the more conspicuous. *Daniel* expressed very little in Regard to his obtaining the Royal Clemency, but when it was hinted to him, that probably the long Confinement might be an Inducement to exchange the Sentence of Death into that of Banishment, he replied, he hoped it would be still better. Their Behaviour was what might be expected from Men of Sense and Education; very exemplary to their Fellow-Prisoners, both as to their Mode of living, which was remarkably temperate; their constant attending Divine Service, and great Desire of having such religious Books, as

B

would

would direct and comfort them in their dreadful Situation. They were likewise constant at the Monthly Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which they always received with great seeming Devotion. When the Warrant came down for their Execution, the Prudence and Humanity of the Under-Keepers (whose Office it is to announce the melancholy News to Convicts in general) prompted them to decline the painful Task, and lay it upon me, to inform them upon what Day they were to fall Victims to the violated Laws of their Country. When I addressed them in their Cell, upon the awful Subject, they received it with apparent Resignation, expressing at the same Time, their grateful Sense of their Keeper's Kindness, in their leaving that Duty to me. *Robert* was greatly apprehensive, that the final parting with his Wife and Children, would be a Conflict too severe and trying to bear with that Manly Fortitude, which is the peculiar Characteristic of him, who entirely acquiesces in the Will of Divine Providence. Wretched indeed! and moving beyond Description must be the Separation

ration

ration of those (which was the Case of this unhappy Sufferer and his amiable Wife) who have lived together for the Space of Eighteen Years, in perfect Harmony and conjugal Felicity, heightened by Three hopeful and promising Children, Pledges of their mutual Love. After Mrs. *Perreau* had taken Leave on the Saturday preceeding the Execution, his Two Sons were admitted the next Day, for the same Purpose; the One a Youth of Fifteen, the other a Child of Eight Years of Age, whom (upon my Return to Evening Prayer) he told me, with Tears in his Eyes, he could hardly disengage himself from, owing to their tender Affection and Feeling for their poor Father's miserable Situation and impending Catastrophe. We are sorry to excite too much the sympathetic Tear of the compassionate and humane Reader, by mentioning that the disconsolate Wife could not refrain from repeating her Visit once more on the Monday, to take her last and solemn Farewel. Towards the Evening, when I saw him, he appeared as well composed as could be expected, after the

Shock

Shock he must have undergone. He and his Brother being now together, on my informing them that the Jews at the Place of Execution, were to be separated from them and the other Convicts, and that a Mourning-Coach was to be provided by the Sheriffs, without any Expence to their Family, they jointly shewed unusual Satisfaction, and told me, that I could not sufficiently express for them their Gratitude to Mr. *Reynolds*, the Under-Sheriff, the kind Proposer of this Act of Benevolence: Accordingly an additional Gallows was erected, in order to prevent any Disturbance their Minds might have been subjected to, from their opposite Principles of Religion, in their dying Moments.

On Tuesday Night after I left them, they were both locked up together in the same Cell, and in the Morning, upon my going into the Goal, they sent their Servant to inform me, that they would be glad to speak with me; when I entered their Cell, they shewed me their Declarations, which they intended to deliver to me at the fatal Tree,

Tree, and which *Daniel* particularly protested were strictly true; before they went up to Chapel, with their Three Christian Fellow-Sufferers, they requested to have a little Refreshment, as they had not gone to Rest the whole Night; after they were indulged, agreeable to their Desire, with a little Toast and warm Wine, they and the other Convicts accompanied me in suitable Devotions, and with becoming Fervency, participated of the comfortable Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. (It must be remarked that no Persons were admitted into the Chapel, which is sometimes the Case, as they desired to be as private and as still as possible). The Service being ended, they came down into the Watch-Room, where they sent for the Executioner, and presented him with a Guinea each. They underwent the Preparation of Haltering and Binding, with a great Degree of Firmness and Resolution, beyond what might have been expected. Soon after, began the mournful Procession, as follows:

First,

First, the Cart, in which went the Two Jews, with *George Lee*, the Highwayman, a fine, genteel Youth, about Nineteen Years of Age, endued with a deal of natural good Sense, improved by a tolerable Education, who assured me he was seduced into the Paths of Vice, by associating with bad Company, a Rock, on which too many young People have split, and against which delusive Snare, we cannot sufficiently caution them. Next went the Sledge, with *Baker* and *Ratcliffe*, the Coiners, Two very decent, well-behaved Men. And last of all, the Coach, with the Unfortunate Brothers, the Subjects of this Paper, with a Sheriff's Officer, and (by their particular Desire) myself. Almost immediately after the Coach moved, they applied themselves to Prayer, and at proper Intervals, conversed with me, and sometimes took Notice of the Spectators, among whom they recognized several of their Acquaintance. *Robert* said, he hoped that wicked Woman *Mrs. Rudd*, was not a Spectator, and when we drew near the Place of Execution, he added,

he

he should not wonder if she was. But *Daniel* appeared confident she would not.

They both professed their Forgiveness, and likewise prayed for her, especially *Daniel*, that she might return to a virtuous Course of Life. They likewise expressed themselves free from the least Indignation against those in Power, whom they supposed to be chiefly instrumental in excluding them from the Royal Mercy.

One Circumstance indeed, I had almost omitted, which should have been mentioned before, that though *Robert* acknowledged to me in the Cell, on the Morning before his Execution, that he had been in the *Alley*, yet he assured me it was not with any Part of the Money raised upon the forged Bonds or Securities; for it had been intimated to him, that his Misfortunes were attributed in a great Measure to his dealing in the Funds. The People in general as they passed along, demonstrated their Pity by their Tears and Prayers for them, and the only Reflection thrown out against them, was from a Mifcreant,

creant, who exclaimed, "Damn 'em, hang them both together," which being overheard by *Robert*, he meekly returned the opprobrious Execration, with a Blessing indeed the whole of their Temper and Deportment, in their last Moments, strongly indicated lively Hopes of a speedy Deliverance from this Vale of Misery, and an Entrance into a blessed Immortality. *Daniel*, with the utmost Gratitude, returned me Thanks for the Spiritual Assistance I had afforded him, while under Sentence of Condemnation; *Robert* joined with his Brother, and added, that he had, during the same gloomy Period, experienced such Benefit from the Duty of Prayer, that in Case his Life had been prolonged, he believed and hoped he should never depart from the frequent Exercise of it. They ascended the Cart with great Serenity and Composure of Mind, and politely returned the Sheriffs Thanks for their extraordinary Indulgence to them. When I applied myself to them and the other Convicts, to know whether they acknowledged their Sentence to be just, they delivered to me each a Paper, asserting

ing with their dying Words, that the Contents were strictly true, whereof the following is an exact Copy, *Verbatim et Literatim.*

“ As I am now going to appear before my great and just God, there to answer for all my Actions, I do solemnly declare to the World in these my last Moments, and I call God to Witnesses, that I never had the least Knowledge or Suspicion of Criminality whatever, in any of the Bonds or other Securities that I negociated of Mr. *W^m. Adair's* for Mrs. *Marg^t. Rudd* and my unhappy Brother, but did always believe them to be valid and genuine Securities. I do solemnly declare also that I did firmly believe (till the Moment the Forgery was discovered) that Mrs. *Rudd* and my Brother were intimately acquainted and connected with Mr. *W^m. Adair*, as they had from Time to Time imposed upon me, and under this firm Belief I was led to negociate these Securities, and when the Bond I carried to Mr. *Drummond* to raise the Money upon was objected to as not being the Hand-

Writing of Mr. *Adair* I applied to Mrs. *Rudd* to inform Mr. *Adair* of it who returned and told me she had seen him and that he would satisfy Mr. *Drummond* of it if he would call or send to him about it and desired I would return to Mr. *Drummond* and tell him so. I did return to Mr. *Drum^d*, and from the implicit Belief I had in all Mrs. *Rudd* told me I inadvertently gave her Words to Mr. *Drum^d*. as my own saying I had seen Mr. *Adair*, but this I solemnly declare was done from no Motive of defrauding whatever, nor did I ever detain any of the Monies arising from the Discounts of these Securities for my own Use. Therefore through my Imprudence I am unhappily brought to an ignominious and shameful Death.

(SIGNED)

Rob^t. Perreau.

“ I do solemnly declare, in the Presence of God Almighty before whom I am going to be judged for all my Actions that I am
totally

totally innocent of all ; Forgeries of Bonds or other Securities of Mr. *W. Adair*, given to my unhappy Brother and myself by Mrs. *Margaret Caroline Rudd* to be negotiated, but that my unhappy Connection with her, and Infatuation to her made me believe every Thing she told me was true; under her Impositions I did deceive my Brother of ; supposed Acquaintance with Mr. *Adair*, always believing however, from her Stories, that I was very soon to be introduced and connected with him, by Means of her family Connections, and thereby to derive considerable Advantages in Life, by which I am unhappily brought to an ignominious End through her Artifices."

(SIGNED)

Daniel Perreau.

The Candid Reader will naturally suppose, they had been apprized, long before these Declarations were Penn'd, of the dreadful Consequence of launching into Eternity with a Falsity in their Mouths, by

appealing (if guilty) from Man's Judgment, to that great Tribunal, where no Deception can take Place, no Subterfuge avail: All which they seemed so sensible of, that they repeated what they had formerly told me, in such a solemn Manner, that they anticipated every Thing I could further urge, without discomposing their Minds and being deemed impertinent. Therefore let it suffice to say, without Prolixity on this dismal Subject, that they fervently joined with their Fellow-Sufferers, in such Prayers to the Throne of Grace, as were adapted to the melancholy Occasion; and towards the Conclusion, *Robert* did not forget to offer up an Ejaculation for his Wife and Children; and *Daniel* again prayed for her who had deceived and betrayed them.

When I was about to take my Leave of them, they embraced and mutually asked Forgiveness of each other, then joining Hands, presently after suffered the Sentence of the Law, amidst a prodigious Number of sympathizing Beholders.

From

From the tragical End of these Two Brothers, let all thriving reputable Tradesmen and Men of Business, draw this useful Lesson and solemn Warning; to content themselves in the Station and Calling wherein Providence has placed them, and prospered their Endeavours; to pursue with Alacrity, the Line marked out for them, without aspiring at high Things, or by an unjustifiable Ambition, quitting their certain lawful Gain, with a View to rise into the wide Regions of Uncertainty, Disappointment and Despair. This seems to have been the weak Side of these unfortunate Men, at which they have been successfully attacked by their artful Seducer, and drawn into a Train of Connections and Transactions, which have terminated in the unhappy Catastrophe, too feebly recited above: From which let every thinking Being among us, devoutly implore the Almighty to preserve us and ours. . Amen,

F I N I S.

Ed. 4th
4/24/29

(12)

THE NARRATIVE contained in this and the Twenty-one preceding Pages, is true and genuine, and the Declarations of the Two Brothers, are copied so exactly and minutely, that I have not pointed them any otherwise than they are done in the Originals. And as I have been called upon, privately and publickly, to authenticate the Declarations delivered to me at Tyburn, I thought proper, for the Satisfaction of all whom it may concern, to sign every one of my Printed Accounts with my own Hand Writing.

J. Vilette
Ordinary of Newgate